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THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

VOLUME 54
NUMBER 10
OCTOBER 1961

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THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians

(Section of the Library Association)

EDITOR: PETER LABDON

Central Library, Southgate, Stevenage.

VOL. 54. No. 10.

OCTOBER, 1961

Comment and News

Hospital Libraries Group

A new Group for those working in hospital libraries, or with the blind, the old and the disabled will come into being on January 1st, 1962, with the object of co-ordinating interest and advising on standards of planning, book provision and staff. The Group will be distinct from, but will work in close co-operation with, the Medical Libraries Section and it is hoped that those joining the new Group will, where appropriate, remain in membership of the Medical Section. A working committee for the new Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Miss M. Going, F.L.A., Hospital Organiser, Kent County Library. The Secretary is Mrs. J. M. Clarke, A.L.A., Librarian of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and further information can be obtained from them.

Chief Librarians and the A.A.L.

It has been pointed out that there is a misconception abroad regarding membership of the Association. Any paid-up member of the Library Association, including Chief Librarians, may become a member of the A.A.L. Further, the Association is always glad to receive such persons into membership both as an act of policy and in the interests of professional unity. By tradition, and only by tradition, Chief Librarians do not serve upon the Council of the Association.

LULOP

The London and Home Counties Branch Committee recently decided that the price of the 2nd edition of the London Union List of Periodicals, published in 1958, should be reduced to 20s. Copies may be obtained from the Branch Publications Officer, Central Library, Banstead Road, Purley, Surrey.

Mobile Libraries

A meeting of mobile library staffs was held at Keynsham, Somerset, on May 27th, 1961. Ninety librarians and thirteen libraries attended and a report of the discussion has just been published by Somerset County Library. The value of such meetings, even though they may be restricted by time, is evident from the report which is wide-ranging and thorough within its context. As a guide to present practice, with all its variations, the report will be of interest to mobile librarians everywhere. Copies may be obtained from *The County Librarian, County Library, Mount Street, Bridgwater, Somerset.*

The New Junior

The Commonwealth Technical Training Week stimulated many authorities into compiling introductions to their libraries for the benefit of new members of staff. The practice is mentioned here less to compare the various types of approach rather than to commend the idea in general. Staff training schemes are gaining impetus, but for those libraries that still cannot spare the staff time for verbal, detailed introductions for each new member, the preparation of a booklet is a valuable half-way stage. This is a job which is not the chief's; judging from those in hand it is best done by a senior assistant who has not left his or her youth too far behind, but who has had enough experience to be able to cover all the relevant points, without turning it into a manual of do's and don't's.

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LIBRARIES IN UGANDA

By Patricia M. Fiddes, East African Literature Bureau.

As in many other parts of Africa, library services in Uganda are sketchy. Until recently the central and local governments have tended to concentrate their resources on the provision of schools and hospitals and the exploitation of economic resources. There seems to be a growing realisation, however, of the part which can be played by library services in this rapidly developing country. In a neighbouring territory the Minister of Education recently said: "It is obvious to me that this government, which is spending at the rate of over £6,000,000 a year on educating people and enabling them to read, must give some thought to devising ways whereby books may be readily available to the people we have educated." (The Hon. W. A. C. Mathieson, Kenya Minister of Education, speaking in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, 18th May, 1960).

To give a picture of conditions in modern Uganda, it is necessary to mention a few facts about the country and the people. Geographically, Uganda is about the size of the British Isles and has a population of seven million. The people belong to two major racial streams, each having their own languages and tribal customs. Life and living conditions are often primitive: in parts of northern Uganda people live as nomads, and elsewhere, outside the towns, dwellings are often mud huts. In normal rural conditions the people do not live in communities, but each family separately on its own land. Naturally, conditions such as these mean that there are few amenities such as sanitation or lighting.

Most Africans are desperately keen to acquire formal education, the possession of a school leaving certificate (at any level) being regarded as the magic passport to a job. Unfortunately, the revenues of Uganda are not sufficient to provide places in the higher standards of schools for all those who wish to attend, so that the selection of candidates, particularly for secondary education, is competitive. The existing library services are mostly used by young Africans who have failed their examinations or have not been able to find the money to pay school fees, for education is not "free"; taxes do not cover all education costs. The library, then, is the place where books may be obtained in order that studies may be pursued by correspondence courses or by part-time classes.

The largest and most important library in Uganda is that of Makerere College, the University of East Africa. This library has a stock of about 60,000 volumes and about 900 current periodicals, geared to the needs of the University syllabus. The library is available to the staff and students of the University and to other *bona fide* users. Makerere is also the legal deposit library for East Africa, and a copy of each book published in the territory is placed on deposit. Members of the library staff have made two valuable contributions towards bibliographical work in East Africa by the compilation of a directory of libraries and of a union list of periodical holdings. In time the library will become the headquarters of a union catalogue of books held in the libraries of Uganda. This catalogue will form part of a co-operative scheme covering the whole of East Africa, and a similar catalogue for Kenya and Tanganyika will be housed at the Royal Technical College Library in Nairobi.

The capital town of Uganda is Kampala and the population is served by two library organisations, both of which are run, through lack of other funds, on a subscription basis. The first of these is the Kampala Municipal Library, which is financed by the town council and by a small grant from the Uganda Government. It provides a level of service similar to that of a small English public library. It operates on a non-racial basis, but not many Africans belong to it because those who would use a library often cannot afford the comparatively high subscription rate. Heavy use is made, however, of the newspapers and periodicals which are available in the reading room.

The second organisation is the East African Literature Bureau, which was set up as a library service to meet the special needs of African readers. The library is part of an inter-territorial service which operates not only in Uganda, but throughout East Africa, having libraries in the three main towns of Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and Kampala. Books are made available to individual readers by post and to organised groups, such as schools, by bulk loan. Organisation is very similar to that of an English county library service, and the loan collections are exchanged at frequent intervals. The Literature Bureau also has a publishing division and many books in English and vernacular languages have been produced for use by schools and the public.

Within the past two or three years several African local governments in Uganda have begun to take an interest in the provision of library services, and libraries have been set up in several towns. These are very small by English standards, the largest having a stock of about 1,500 volumes; expenditure is limited, often only about £10 a year on books. The staff is usually one African clerk who supplements his earnings by an extra few shillings a month for opening the library twice a week.

Many schools also have libraries, some of which, at the senior level, may contain several thousand volumes. At the lower levels provision is poor, and in some cases, non-existent. Often schools have no suitable premises in which to house a library, and the few books owned are kept locked away for fear of loss or theft. I have seen a school library, housed in a mud hut, where a collection of aged newspapers and magazines was kept behind a wire netting barricade and made available twice a week. Both schools and local governments have been assisted, in generous measure, by gifts of books from the British Council.

One of the immediate snags in the provision of a library service is that of teaching the local librarians how to organise and run their services. Because of the extreme shortage of qualified librarians in Uganda, this work is likely to be slow, but, with the assistance of the East African Literature Bureau, the British Council has provided two very successful short courses designed to give a quick introduction to librarianship and some hints on how to cope with problems.

Perhaps the greatest problem in education is that of illiteracy. No one knows how much of the population is literate, even in vernacular languages, but figures are likely to be low, possibly 20–25 per cent. overall. In Uganda the government organises literacy campaigns as part of its community development programme. The East African Literature Bureau, in its role as publisher, has prepared and published the literacy primers which are used in the campaigns.

A further complication in the provision of literature is the number of languages spoken. In Uganda there are two major language groups, Bantu and Nilotic, which are completely different. Each group contains a number of languages and dialects. There is an East African *lingua franca* in Swahili, but in Uganda there is a prejudice against the use of this language for educational and official purposes. The East African Literature Bureau has published books in English, Swahili and twenty-eight other East African languages.

Africans who have been to school will understand some English as it is taught as a second language in the primary school, and then becomes the medium of instruction in the secondary school and university. The standard of English produced depends on the quality of the teaching at the lower levels, where tuition may be given by African teachers whose own understanding and pronunciation is imperfect.

Experience with library work seems to show that Africans who have learned a little English are not interested in books in the vernacular languages, and demand is for books in English. The only regular borrowers of books in vernacular languages are those who have never learned English and the demand for these books comes from prisons and commercial firms employing large labour forces. Most readers are keen to improve their English and class 420 is possibly the most heavily used section of the stock, though other popular subjects include English and Commonwealth history, political science and books of the "*How to win friends and influence people*" variety.

Most of the applicants for the Literature Bureau's postal service state that they are studying for examinations and require textbooks. This is confirmed by the numbers who discontinue membership on completing their courses of study and indicates that books are used as a means to an end. Reading for pleasure is not common, but this is to be expected as English is a foreign language to these people, and its grammatical structure is completely unlike that of the African languages. Another possible reason for the failure to read may be a return to village living conditions where the lack of amenities and the absence of other educated people breed an indifference to books.

Nowadays there is improved provision of English books for the African reader, and there are several English publishers who specialise in this kind of material. For children the need is for books which have a suitable background—one that is within the child's experience. Adults need books in fairly simple English with adult subject content. For those of low reading level the stories or chapters should be short, so that the reader does not become tired before he has finished and the use of pictures and diagrams helps in the understanding of the text. Books containing slang or too much idiomatic English, provided for the English reader, are a barrier to full use and enjoyment by Africans, and many otherwise suitable books are not selected for the Literature Bureau Library.

With the exception of Makerere College all the libraries in Uganda are financially poor. Recently the Kampala Municipal Library has had to discontinue its postal service to new "up-country" members, while the Literature Bureau is attempting to operate on a bookfund of £1,000 a year for the whole of East Africa, reduced in 1960 from the previous £3,000 a year. This means that Uganda has about £300 to spend on books. English librarians will find this figure laughable, especially in the light of the Roberts report recommendation that £5,000 for a bookfund would provide a *minimum* service. For many years the Director of the Literature Bureau

has attempted to obtain approval and funds for central or national library services operating under Libraries Boards, on the Ghana pattern, but funds have not been available. There are hopes, however, that the British Government will be coming to the rescue in the near future and plans are under active consideration by the East African Governments for the setting up of National Public Library services in each of the territories.

One of the first problems that will be encountered, however, will be that of staff training. At present there are only two Africans in the whole of East Africa who have qualified as chartered librarians, and although there are several more who are partly qualified, a fairly intensive training scheme will have to go into operation at an early stage if the central library and its branches are to give an efficient service.

Organisation of the national service will be similar to that of a county library with the branches being "fed" from a central pool of stock and exchanges being made at frequent intervals. In the early stages this work will be centralised, but once newly qualified staff start arriving from the training scheme, it may be possible to decentralise to a certain extent. As part of the new scheme, the Literature Bureau libraries have begun to subscribe to the B.N.B. card service, which will save a good deal of time on the part of professional staff. B.N.B. will also become the main book selection tool.

At present the picture is one of poverty tinged with hope. East Africa lags far behind West Africa in the provision of library services. The British Government's offer of assistance depends on many factors, but there is no doubt that efficient library services could play a most important part in the development of the territories—a fact which is realised by many Africans. The next few months will be vital ones for the future of public libraries in East Africa, and we hope that we shall have the chance, after many years, to give the standard of service which is so urgently needed.

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WORKING WITH NALGO

by Alan Morley, Swindon Public Libraries.

Librarians are always being urged to take an active interest in NALGO affairs. Only thus, we are told, is it possible to make our minority voice heard above the clamour of surveyors, architects, treasurers and the rest of our local government colleagues.

Having now been Editor and Public Relations Officer of the Swindon and District Branch of NALGO for something over a year, my experiences, and that of my two library colleagues on the Branch Executive Committee may be of interest. We do not claim that Swindon is necessarily typical of all NALGO Branches, and we would be interested to hear the comments of other NALGO members in libraries throughout the country.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch held in November, 1960, the library members put forward the following resolution, that:—

"In view of the irregular and inconvenient hours which library staffs are required to work, this Branch take all possible steps, at both local and national level, to obtain for them some compensation by way of extra financial reward and/or additional leave"

After some discussion this resolution was carried by a large majority. We have found that, at local level at any rate, NALGO members are sympathetic about our "awkward hours," and are genuinely anxious to help in improving conditions. That their ideas of "improvement" do not necessarily coincide with ours is something to which I will return later in this article.

The A.G.M. Motion proceeded along the usual channels towards local and national levels, and it so happened that the "national" part came first. Those who know anything of NALGO machinery will realise that this meant that the resolution was discussed at District level, in this case the South Western District. None of the library members of the Branch Executive are delegates to District, but we were told by those submitting the resolution for us that the motion had been forcibly rejected by the District Committee who "strongly deplored" the Branch's decision to negotiate the issue at local level. The reason given was that any action would tend to prejudice the negotiations which NALGO were undertaking on behalf of Chartered Librarians!

Back at local level we were able to persuade the Staff Sub-Committee, to whom this question had been referred, that the Chartered Librarians' claim would have nothing whatever to do with the average junior assistant working in public libraries, and that in any case the awkward hours of senior staff would doubtless be taken into account if such an agreement was ever negotiated. So it was decided to pursue the matter through the Staff Joint Committee despite the opposition of the District Committee.

The Staff Joint Committee is composed equally of members representing the staff and the employers, and here a member of the library staff was able to be present. Statistics of those authorities which already allow compensation for "awkward hours" were provided, as were copies of the letter which the Library Association sent to Chief Librarians urging them to enlist the aid of NALGO in this matter. At this committee we feel that we were more successful. Although the employers' side felt that they were not able to reach a decision, they did agree to bring up

the matter at national level. We thus feel that an important step forward was made and something may well be done.

Possibly the most interesting and disturbing aspect of the matter is, however, the attitude which our NALGO colleagues take towards the late opening of libraries. The progress of the A.G.M. resolution, as I have outlined it above, was reported at the last meeting of the Branch Executive. Members were genuinely pleased at the progress made at local level, but in discussion several members asked *why* it was necessary for the libraries to be open until 8 p.m. (9 p.m. in the Reference Library) six days a week. Shops, they argued, at one time remained open until late at night to serve the public; now they close at 5.30 with a half-day closing, and the public were used to it and planned accordingly. We must move with the times and do likewise. Our counter-argument that the libraries were providing an important public service by opening during the evenings, and indeed our busiest times were evenings and Saturdays, was met with a rather incredulous silence. One member suggested, possibly to excuse such heresy as our wishing to serve the public, that it was in our interest to work evenings, as earlier closing might lead to a falling off of issues and a redundancy within the library profession! We were told that a NALGO official had voiced the opinion (in fairness probably his own) that library staffs were "Plain cuckoo" to tolerate such hours and could soon do something about it by refusing to work them.

Frankly we find this rather alarming. Are we the only starry-eyed idealists left in local government, or doesn't public service count for anything these days? As a NALGO P.R.O., I find this attitude completely incompatible with the policy which NALGO Headquarters sends me and which I try to put over to outside bodies. Yet my NALGO colleagues are not hypocrites, it is just that our concept of public service differs. It will be interesting to learn whether other readers have experienced this attitude.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

From OCTOBER 1st, 1961, all correspondence intended for the Secretary of the A.A.L. should be addressed to him at:

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY,
UNION STREET,
OLDHAM, Lancs.





DEVELOPMENTS IN DOCUMENTARY REPRODUCTION

Second annual supplement.

by D. Mason

During the twelve months since the last supplement, an event has taken place which should prove to be a major step forward in the field of documentary reproduction in this country. In October, 1960, the Library Association called a meeting of organisations and persons interested in the formation of a National Advisory Council for Microreproduction. As a result of this meeting a Steering Committee was appointed and the terms of reference were widened so that the organisation is now entitled the Council for Microphotography and Document Reproduction. Its terms of reference are "to advise on and further the use of all methods of document reproduction." The existence of this organisation will allow the makers and the users of equipment to get together and formulate standards for the production of new machines.

The Federation Internationale de Documentation announced in November, 1960, that it was issuing the final supplement to its *Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection*. It proposed to replace the supplements with a quarterly survey of new processes, apparatus and materials to be published in the *Revue de la Documentation*.

Negative/Positive process

In the last supplement the Mason *Polyprint* was described. A new photocopier using this process has been introduced by Copycat Ltd. with the trade name *Dalcopier*—rotary model R9. This machine is specifically designed for copying loose papers, but copies from bound volumes can be made by using a light box, e.g. the *Unicop*, for exposing the negative, and the *Dalcopier* for developing the negative and for printing the positive copies. This machine is simple to operate. No exact time setting is required, the operator has a choice of five push-buttons and presses the correct button for the type of copy required. A resistance control enables the intensity of the light to be kept at a set level, thus overcoming the loss of light which gradually develops as the light source ages and also permitting the operator to compensate for any fall in the electric current reaching the machine. The developing and stabilising solutions are stored in a moulded plastic tray which is sealed off from the rest of the machine to avoid any chance of liquid getting on to electrical connections. The solutions need to be changed every 600 copies or every 2 weeks. The first copy made is a negative and costs 3d. for quarto size (material cost only). Any number of positive prints can be made from it at a further cost of 3d. each. Thus the cost of the first positive is 6d., which is slightly less than the cost of a diffusion transfer print. Positive prints can be made on translucent paper for use as diazo masters. However, although cheap, they are not as good for this purpose as prints made on to film base via the transfer process. The *Dalcopier* costs £95.

There is also a *Dalcopier* flatbed model FB which is designed for making prints from bound volumes. It has two disadvantages: (a) exposure time is rather critical and can result in wastage, and (b) the lid

of the light box does not have adjustable hinges. The cost is £135 complete with two polythene bottles used for emptying solutions from the machine. With this amount of money one could buy the rotary model and spend the remaining £40 on a separate light box of better design.

Mechanical transfer process

Eastman Kodak have announced the introduction of coloured *Verifax* papers. The papers have been toned to match regular stationery hues, the colours being salmon, green, canary, blue, buff, pink and golden rod. Previously *Verifax* paper had been available in white only.

Kodak have also brought out a portable book copying unit which is designed for use with the *Verifax* process. It weighs 13lbs. and has a carrying case. An exposure compensator is fitted which shows voltage variation in any copying location. The matrix has to be developed in a standard machine, but can be stored in a light-proof envelope for a few days between exposure and development.

Diazo process

A new dyeline paper *Diazotherm* is the end product of a joint research programme by Copycat Ltd. and Ets. Bauchet et Cie. After exposure it is dry developed, using only heat. This replaces the use of ammonia fumes for dry-development of dyeline papers. Some equipment, already in use, can be modified for use with *Diazotherm*, but new equipment is promised for the near future.

In the last supplement reference was made to the making of half-tone prints on dyeline paper. Since then I have seen prints made on to *Nuvatone* paper and have been impressed with their high quality. *Nuvatone* paper, made by J. Holden & Co., has a matt surface, but can be given a glossy finish by superimposing *Halco-sheen* self-adhesive film on top of the prints. Apart from half-tone prints, copies of pen and ink drawings, pencil sketches, etc. come out very well on this paper.

Thermofax

One of the difficulties in using the earlier *Thermofax* copiers was the fact that as the machine warmed up with continuous use, the exposure time altered. This required the operator to judge when alterations were needed, and also resulted in a number of wasted copies. A new model was introduced last year which overcame this difficulty. On the front of the machine was a dial which gave a temperature reading and the exposure setting dial had to be adjusted in accordance with the reading. This year the 3M Co. have brought out the *Thermofax* model no. 44, which combines the two dials into one. On the top of the machine is the usual exposure control and inside the dial of this is a small red indicator which moves as the temperature increases. The operator merely has to match the exposure control to the red indicator and good prints result. Although this new method is a distinct improvement, some dissatisfaction has been expressed that a model introduced last year should be superseded so quickly. Had buyers of last year's model known that a very much improved version would be coming out within such a short time, they would probably have waited for it.

The *Thermofax Premier* book-copier has been used in the library of Manchester College of Science and Technology for an interesting experiment in "self-service." Students and teaching staff were able to operate the machine efficiently after short instruction. A charge of 6d. per page was made and a free test strip was supplied to each user. Ninety-six items were copied during the two months' period of the experiment and only six were failures.

Xerography

The new *Rank-Xerox 914 Copier* is a fully automatic machine which can produce six prints per minute. It can copy from single sheets or bound books, and the process is simply to place the original in position on the copier, dial the number of prints required and push the print button. The machine automatically sets the right exposure, runs off the required number of prints, then cuts itself off. It is not for sale, but can be rented at £30 per month with an additional charge of 3d. per copy after the first 2,000 copies per month. It has been estimated that if 100 copies per day are made, the cost of each will be approximately 4½d., whereas 250 copies per day brings the cost down to 4d. each. A smaller and more economical model is expected to be available in the near future.

New equipment for making electrostatic prints at high speeds has been announced. The A.B. Dick *Videograph* prints 20,000 characters per second. The scanning and printing devices can be connected by line or by microwave radio link. It can print textual or pictorial matter and can even make prints of stationary or moving pictures as seen by a TV camera. The principal use of such a device is for computer output. The Rank Xerox *Xeronic* is designed for similar work and has a speed of nearly 13,000 characters per second. At the moment such machines are of marginal interest to librarians, but the day may come when we all have our own computers.

The Games Copier

A new process invented by Mr. A. Games has been patented and may be available towards the end of 1962. In this process a thin film of a light oil is spread over the document to be copied, and a sheet of copy paper placed over it. Heat is then applied which is reflected by the white areas, but absorbed by the black textual areas. The film of oil on the text boils off and is condensed on to the copy paper, where it forms a latent image. Powdered resin is dusted over the copy and adheres to the oil. It is then fixed into position by heat fusion. The oil on the white areas of the original document soon evaporates in normal room temperature, leaving the original unaffected.

The machine is not much larger than a typewriter, all the processes are fully automatic and copies can be turned out at a speed of 60 linear feet per minute. It has the same limitations as *Thermofax*, i.e. it can only copy material with a carbon content in the printing ink, and thus will not copy some inks, ball point pen writing and spirit duplicated materials.

Microcopies

The April, 1961, issue of *National Micro-News*, the official journal of the National Microfilm Association, contained the second supplement to their *Guide to Microreproduction Equipment*. The *Guide* was originally published in 1959 and the first supplement in 1960. The second supplement gives details of six cameras, five readers, four printers and one hand-viewer, together with twenty-two items of auxiliary equipment.

The American Optical Company's *Micro opaque* reader was mentioned briefly in the last supplement. Since then I have had an opportunity to examine it. It has the advantage of the interior opaque screen which makes for good images and easy reading, and the card moving device is fitted to the side, together with the light source, thus avoiding dazzle. All sizes of micro-opaques can be read, and it is not difficult to use the reader to make enlarged prints. The light is fan-cooled, and for use in this country a transformer has been fitted. The lens is of reasonable quality, although there is a slight loss of definition at the edges of the image. Complete with card moving device, the cost is £164, of which about £80 is import duty. This is a pity because at the basic price of approximately £84 this reader would be a good buy, though hardly so at nearly double.

The Microcard Reader Corporation have just announced their new *Microcard Copier*. This machine uses the chemical transfer process to produce enlarged prints from microcards. The negative and positive papers are inserted into the machine in 100 foot rolls, which is sufficient for 90-100 copies. The activating solution is held in a container at the top of the machine to facilitate easy insertion and removal. The size of the copier is 12 inches wide by 17 inches high by 24 inches long, and it can be used on an ordinary desk or table. To operate the copier, the microcard is placed in a frame at the front of the machine, and the operator finds the required page by looking through a viewing device which enlarges the image. When the page is in position, an exposure control is set for the right number of seconds (usually 10) and the print button is pressed. The exposure is made and the paper is moved through the activating fluid automatically. The machine then switches itself off and the operator lifts the lid on the top and removes the positive and negative papers which are, of course, sandwiched firmly together. They are peeled apart, the negative is discarded, and the positive, which dries in room temperature within a minute or two, is available for use. The price of this copier in the U.S.A. is \$950.

The first *Guide to microforms in print* was published this year by Microcard Editions Inc., the price of this country being approximately 30s. It is arranged in a single alphabetical sequence of both books and periodicals, the former appearing under the author's name, and the latter under the title, and lists the microforms offered for sale on a regular basis by 42 American publishers. The tremendous development in the use of microforms is demonstrated by the fact that the *Guide* lists about 10,000 works.

University Microfilms have issued a March, 1961, supplement to their January, 1960, *Cumulative list of O-P books*. All the books listed are out of print with the original publishers, but arrangements have been made for them to be microfilmed. Copies may be purchased either in microfilm form, or as Xerox enlargements.





EXCHANGE

by John Walton,

Nottinghamshire County Library.

The staff exchange scheme organised by the Nottinghamshire County Library, the Nottingham City Library, and the Nottingham University Library has been successful over a period of several years. Members of staff possessing the First Professional Examination qualification are entitled to apply to "go on exchange." To work in another library system for one month, as the scheme requires, can be intensely valuable, both from the point of view of broadening the librarian's professional outlook, and for providing that extra practical experience so helpful for the Library Association examinations.

In November, 1959, I went to the Nottingham City Library for my first month on exchange. I was studying, at the time, for the Administration examination, and this month was very useful in putting the theory of classwork into the reality of experience. For the first three weeks of the month, the Central Reference Library was my first taste of municipal librarianship. Reference work in a county branch library cannot be as intense as that offered in a large municipal central reference library. The final week of the month was split between the Commercial and Technical Library and the Local History Library. Many county systems do not administer separate departments for these two types of library, and their work was of great interest. At Nottingham, the Commercial and Technical Library has holdings of patent specifications, an index of trade marks, and holdings of the Atomic Energy proceedings. To see and handle these works was an interesting experience. During the month, visits were arranged; one to a Nottingham printer, and the other to the Nottingham City Library Bindery.

My second exchange took place in February, 1961, this time at the Nottingham University Library which classifies by the Library of Congress classification. After experience of Dewey, one becomes quickly used to this classification scheme. For the first two weeks of the month, I was working in the main University Library. The graduate—non-graduate division of staff worked most amicably. During the third week I was left in charge of the Biology, Metallurgy, and Pharmacy Libraries for one half of the week, while for the second half I had charge of the Engineering, Chemistry, and Mining Libraries. For the final week of the month, I was back in the main library, spending the afternoons in the Cataloguing Department. Details of the library grant, the staff manual, and the University Library Guides to Bibliographic Resources, were placed at my disposal for consultation and perusal. There was an interesting "Shakespeare in Art" exhibition to visit during the month and a sale of books at the University bookshop. At the time, studying for the Literature examination, I was able to make use of the University Library.

These two months have provided valuable professional experience, for which I can thank a very worthwhile staff interchange scheme.

One-day Revision School

The Greater London Division's usual pre-exam. revision school will be held at Chaucer House on Sunday, October 29th, 1961. Lectures will cover F.P.E. and Registration Groups A, B and C (including non-public library administration). Any member of the A.A.L. may attend, and details can be obtained from A. O. Meakin, F.L.A., G.L.D. Hon. Education Secretary, Central Library, Brookhill Road, East Barnet, Herts.

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.

ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOKS : F.P.E. AND REGISTRATION LEVELS, 1961.

ALL SUBJECTS.

- | | |
|---|--|
| CORBETT, E. V. | The First Professional Examination (A.A.L. Guides), 1956. 2/6d. |
| CORBETT, E. V. | Introduction to public librarianship. 2nd ed. 1952. O/P. |
| HARRISON, K. C.
THE REGISTRATION
EXAMINATION. | First steps in librarianship. 2nd ed. Grafton. 21/- (A.A.L. Guides) 1955. Reprint 1960. 6/-. |
| WALFORD, A. J. | A general introduction to the examinations and methods of study (A.A.L. Guides) 1955. 3/9d. |

CLASSIFICATION.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| MANN, M. | Introduction to cataloguing and classification of books, 2nd ed. A.L.A. 1943. \$3.25. (Also needed for cataloguing). |
| PHILLIPS, W. H. | Primer of book classification. A.A.L. O/P 5th ed., ready Summer, 1961. |
| SAYERS, W. C. B. | Manual of classification. 3rd ed. rev. 1959. O/P. |
| PALMER, B. I. and
WELLS, A. J. | Fundamentals of library classification. 1951. O/P. |

CATALOGUING.

- | | |
|---|---|
| AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION. | A.L.A. cataloguing rules for author and title entries. 2nd ed. Chicago, A.L.A. 1949. \$5. |
| AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION. | A.L.A. rules for filing catalogue cards. Chicago, A.L.A. 1942. \$2. |
| BRITISH MUSEUM. | Rules for compiling the catalogues of printed books Rev. ed. 1936. 3/3d. |
| COATES, E. J. | Subject catalogues. L.A. 1960. 16/6d. |
| COLLISON, R. L. | The treatment of special material in libraries. 1955. (ASLIB Manuals, Vol. 2), 12/6d. |
| CUTTER, C. A. | Rules for a dictionary catalog. 4th ed. L.A., 1904. 5/6d. |
| JOLLEY, L. | The principles of cataloguing. C. Lockwood. 1960 15/-. |
| LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
AND AMERICAN
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. | Cataloguing rules: author and title entries. L.A. 1908. 5/6d. |
| NORRIS, D. | Primer of cataloguing. A.A.L. 1952. 7/6d. |
| SEARS, M. E. | List of subject headings. 8th ed. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1959. \$5. |

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTARY REPRODUCTION.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ADDIS, H. G. | The printed book. 3rd ed. C.U.P. 1951. 12/6d. |
| JENNETT, S. | The making of books. 2nd ed. Faber. 1956. 52/6d. |
| MALLABER, K. A. | Primer of bibliography. A.A.L. 1954. 10/-. |
| MASON, D. | A primer of non-book materials in libraries. A.A.L. 1958. 15/- (also needed for Assistance to Readers). |
| WILLOUGHBY, E. E. | The uses of bibliography . . . Shoestring P. through Bailey Bros. 1957. 30/-. |

ASSISTANCE TO READERS.

- COLLISON, R. L. Library assistance to readers. 3rd ed. C. Lockwood. 1960. 13/6d.
COOK, M. G. The new library key. H. W. Wilson Co. through Holmes of Glasgow. 1956. 7/6d.
FOSKETT, D. J. Assistance to readers in lending libraries. Clarke, 1952. 12/6d.
FOSKETT, D. J. Information service in libraries. C. Lockwood. 1958. 13/6d.
WALFORD, A. J. and PAYNE, L. M. eds. Guide to reference material. L.A. 1959. £3.

ADMINISTRATION.

- ASHWORTH, W. ed. Handbook of special librarianship. ASLIB. 1955. 50/-.
BOAS, M. ed. A living library. California U.P. 1957.
CALDWELL, W. Introduction to county library practice. A.A.L. 1956. 3/9d.
HEWITT, A. R. Summary of public library law. A.A.L. 3rd ed. 1951. 5/6d.
LAMB, J. P. Commercial and technical libraries. Allen & Unwin. 1955. 21/6d.
LOCK, R. N. Library administration. C. Lockwood. 1961. 15/-.
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. Structure of the public library service (Roberts Committee Report). H.M.S.O. 1959. 3/6d.
MUNFORD, W. A. Penny rate. L.A. 1951. 16/-.
MURISON, W. J. The public library. Harrap. 1955. 10/6d.
VOLLANS, R. F. Library co-operation in Great Britain. N.C.L. 1952. O/P.

LITERATURE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

- BERNAL, J. D. Science in history. Watts, 1954. 42/-.
MASON, S. F. History of the sciences. Routledge. 1953. 31/6d.
THORNTON, J. L. and TULLY, R. J. Scientific books, libraries and collectors. L.A. 1954. 18/6d.

LITERATURE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IDEAS.

- BOWLE, JOHN. Western political thought. Cape. 1947. 25/-.
GETTELL, R. G. History of political thought. 2nd ed. Allen & Unwin. 1956. 30/-.
LEWIS, P. R. The literature of the social sciences. L.A. 1960. 21/-.
SABINE, G. H. History of political theory. 3rd ed. Harrap. 1951. 25/-.

Supplementary list of recommended textbooks.

- BOWERS, F. Textual and literary criticism. C.U.P. 1959. 22/6d.
CLOUGH, E. A. Bookbinding for librarians. A.A.L. 1957. 20/-.
CORBETT, E. V. Photo-charging. J. Clarke, 1957. 15/-.
CORBETT, E. V. Public library finance and accountancy. L.A. 1960. 18/-
CURRIE, C. Be a librarian. C. Lockwood, 1958. 12/6d.
HAINES, H. E. Living with books. 2nd ed. 1950. Columbia U.P. \$6.
MCCOLVIN, L. R. The chance to read. Phoenix. 1956. 35/-.
MCMURTRIE, D. C. The book: the story of printing and bookmaking. 1943. 1948). O.U.P. 70/-.
MILLS, J. A modern outline of library classification. Chapman and Hall. 1960. 36/-.
SAVAGE, E. A. Manual of book classification and display. Allen and Unwin. 1947. 12/6d.
SINGER, C. A short history of scientific ideas to 1900. O.U.P. 1959. 35/-.
WILLIAMSON, H. Methods of book design. O.U.P. 1956. 45/-

Correspondence

The New Award

Miss Gregory's spirited defence of NALGO's part in the Award makes much of the small sum by which the settlement fell short of the claim. Had the money value been the only point at issue, it might also have been stressed that, up to the age 30, even including the proposed new Burnham increases, the non-graduate teacher will be worse off than the A.P.T. II Chartered Librarian.

But it was not £45—nor even £5—which influenced the Library Association to affirm its decision not to associate itself with a scale substantially less than £1,000 at the maximum. What the profession required to justify it thinking in the terms of the 1964 Syllabus was a *career* scale adequate to 1961. This meant a scale which at least exceeded the maximum of A.P.T. II—the very thing which we failed to get. It was known by the time negotiations were resumed that the Employers' side were keen to dispense with the *ad hoc* scales paid to the Special Classes of Officers, because agreement had been reached between the two sides that quite generous bracketed grades would be paid to other Special Classes in order to bring them into line upon the implementation of the general award. The proposed librarians' scale of £765—£1,005 was agreed with NALGO in relation to salaries obtaining a full year before the New Award, and it was based only partly upon parity with teachers. The general level of remuneration for non-public Chartered Librarians had also been submitted to NALGO as a factor in our claim, but they decided that it

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would not be a valid basis because the intervening general award was regarded as having taken care of pay differentials between Local Government Officers and employees outside the service!

The "unconstitutional activities of the Library Association" must be seen against the background of what the delay was costing. The Association was told that any revision of the claim would mean starting afresh, although it was generally realised that many salary claims for other professions were pending, and that our £1,005 was now perilously close to the new A.P.T. II maximum. Such were the penalties borne by many authorities' library staffs under the iniquities of the old Award that there was a danger of popular clamour to secure repudiation of the Award altogether at one stage because of the delay in negotiation. Had this been allowed to occur, the Staff Side would have been even more embarrassed in future negotiations.

JOHN HOYLE, *Honorary Secretary, A.A.L.*

A.A.L. Reorganisation

As the senior municipal grey-beard not actually savaged in Mr. G. W. Thompson's article in your July issue, I feel I can claim a prior right to reply. In any case our names will be hopelessly mixed in readers' minds.

Comment upon the proposed A.A.L. reorganization was called for and comment Mr. Thompson has given us. Unfortunately he has merely reiterated the conventional jibes and has given nothing new to go on. "Members of the Council are too old"—to a body which tampers with democracy by loading the elections on the side of the under-thirties. "Too high a proportion are municipal"—while we plead, cajole, entice and bully in an unending effort to get non-municipal types to join us. Every one of Mr. Thompson's fervent calls-to-arms has been the occasion of long and earnest discussion at A.A.L. council many times since the war.

But the unkindest cut of all is that the A.A.L. "could usefully interest itself . . . in . . . public speaking, public relations and committee work." After sixty years of hectic hey-ding-dong generating enough hot air to float a fleet of dirigibles, we "could usefully interest ourselves in committee work." Mr. Thompson, thank you for your comments, but before you hector us further you should get to know something about your subject. Attend A.A.L. meetings (and encourage your special library colleagues to do likewise); stand for election to divisional committee and then to A.A.L. council. Put into work for your fellow librarians a fraction of what our President has put in since he lost that all important "first bloom of youth"—and your objects will be achieved.

While I'm at it, may I comment on the wholly delightful letter from Mr. A. C. Bubbs in the same issue? Mr. Bubbs says "whether someone who will handle *Chemical Abstracts* more often than Caxtons should know much historical bibliography is perhaps arguable—though my answer, which would take long to expound, is "Yes, and there's no such thing as historical bibliography anyhow."

Attaboy, Mr. Bubbs. Expound. That is the sort of article I would like to read and I feel sure that the editor would jump at the chance of getting it.

GODFREY THOMPSON, *Vice-President, A.A.L.*

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The Presidential address

With reference to this year's Presidential Address by W. Howard Phillips

Hurray, hurray, hurray!

PATRICIA BEARDSALL,
MRS. M. L. HURDEN,
MISS T. M. BRADY,

Chislehurst and Sidcup Public Library.

Married women in Librarianship

Mrs. Simsova, in the July issue, complains of the position in the profession to-day of the woman with a family to raise. Mrs. Simsova does not seem to grasp the fact that librarianship is a full time job; not just an eight hours a day occupation, but a profession and a way of life. It is a young and expanding profession and if we create a precedent to-day of part time management, it may take as long to cure and do as much damage as "the penny rate." The library service desperately needs dedicated and qualified people who are prepared and able to work a full day every day and more besides; an executive body that is prepared to eat, sleep and dream librarianship. It particularly does not want people, male or female, trying to hold down responsible jobs on a part time basis, subject to the calls of children's measles, speech days and the myriad demands of a family.

We cannot afford to employ, in executive positions, people who have been out of touch for years and who return to librarianship when, as Mrs. Simsova puts it, the family no longer needs them.

If one is to be a useful librarian and help in any way the progress of librarianship, then it *must* be on an unremitting full time basis, and I firmly believe that a five or seven or ten-year absence "while the family grows up" *must* make one outdated and behind in knowledge of current trends and developments and out of practice in administration and book-manship.

If the profession is to be geared to the "part time professional" mentality and if the school library service in particular is to be run on a quasi-amateur basis, then we may as well turn the profession over to the W.V.S.

As a spark of encouragement to the "woman with a family," if work in libraries is divided into professional and non-professional grades there will be created at once, in the latter category, a demand for ladies of experience, with good judgment, fully rounded personalities and integrated home lives to control the flocks of young ladies who will seek jobs as "librarians," as indeed they do now, with no intention of qualifying and no interest in the future of librarianship beyond the next pay day.

NOEL J. CHAMBERS, *Islington Public Libraries.*

I do not entirely agree with Mrs. Glass's suggestion that a woman's career ends with marriage, although I have no argument to turn it down outright. Neither could I support Mrs. Simsova's full employment outside the home, as she does not reveal as to why she goes back to work. Is it because she is a chartered librarian; or that she means to help in Britain's present Americanization: to have a car per head, and a TV set for every

family? Whatever may be her reasons, there would hardly be a happy family life, particularly for small children, if the wife went out regularly to work.

Education and civilization encourages a woman to qualify and keep on with her job so long as she remains single. Mrs. Simsova seems to think that marriage is a necessity to one's full personal development. She may be right. But there is another school of thought: marriage is not a mere choice of life, or contract. It is a vocation to which, if one is not called, one should have no regrets. The world is full of personalities who are still single, and will ever remain so.

To encourage a married woman, a woman with small children, to seek outside jobs, is directly or indirectly to cause a big leakage in her family life.

G. WILLIAM SERWADDA, *Manchester City Library.*

Bibliography and Book Selection

No one, I think, would disagree with Mr. Bubb's assertion in the *July Assistant* that bibliography is a fascinating subject when looked at in the right way, but Mr. Bubb knows as well as I do that bibliography as drummed into the skulls of the uninterested young is anything but fascinating. It is a dull, dreary (not to say difficult) subject, and, no doubt, occasioned the late H. B. Wheatley to remark, "bibliographers, like poets, are more often born than made."

I must say, however, I heartily agree with Mr. Bubb's suggestion (whether it be serious or otherwise) that "the Parts of a Book, and all the owlsh approach they represent, should be given a quiet burial"—and the quicker the better, as far as I am concerned (though this won't please chaps like Mr. Peter Hoare). The physical make-up of books, I should have thought, is the least important part of our work; the critical side matters more. In libraries, we cannot afford the mediocre, and heaven knows the standard of writing in an age which prides itself on superior book-production has never been so low. Librarians ought to be insisting on books that are better written, otherwise if we follow the Hoares of the profession, we shall find ourselves accepting any old publisher's junk, just because it happens to be a smart bit of book-production!

I have never been able to see why we should study in minute detail all the latest developments and techniques in printing, which is what the present syllabus obliges us to do and which is straying somewhat beyond our territory. After all, we are not professional printers. A professional pianist, by comparison, doesn't spend half his tuition learning the inside of a piano, or how the notes work, for the simple and obvious reason that a professional pianist doesn't pretend to be anything else. A professional pianist isn't a piano-tuner, and neither is a Chartered Librarian a professional printer.

Our main and important task, surely, is to select books. We should be devoting all our energies to this, and Paul Turner is right to remind us we are not. Only recently, in the *July Library World*, we are castigated by the Editor of *Books and Bookmen* for wasting too much time on trivialities. He instances counting the fines money, adding the issue or tidying the bookshelves, instead of spending this time on book selection.

Isn't it time we began thinking about real librarianship, stopped poking our noses into other people's and other professions' problems and got on with our own job—the responsibility of providing first-class libraries and first-rate book collections? We should then become better librarians—and better respected. A life-time of ill-sorted bookstocks and

old-fashioned library buildings has made the librarian in this country a cartoon-figure. It's time we became, instead of a "Comic Cuts" caricature, a responsible body in the community.

JOHN O'RIORDAN, *Enfield Public Library.*

Cri de coeur

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MISS P. A. TAYLOR.

REVIEW

Whittaker, K: *Using Libraries.* London, Grafton & Co., 1961.

With the first sentence of chapter I of this book, I thought we were going to have a taste of honey. "There are two kinds of library, one is dead, the other alive," and I felt admiration and gratitude to a writer who could at once suggest to those who use libraries that there are different standards of service, and only the best should be accepted. But Mr. Whittaker, (F.L.A. as we are told boldly on the title page) when he was referring to the "dead" libraries, meant "those no longer expanding . . . there are only a few libraries in this category, many of them Cathedral and Parish libraries," and his explanation of his magnificent first sentence continues by (cross) classifying the libraries that are "alive" into seven groups. My hopes that we had at last an informative guide for those using, or intending to use, our libraries was crushed, and my disappointment remained through the rest of the book.

We are told in the introduction to the book that the writer hopes "it will appeal . . . to members of the general public, to older school children, to students and to teachers. It should also appeal to entrants to the library profession . . ." Unfortunately it is likely to dissuade the best and bore the second rate. For Mr. Whittaker cannot dissociate himself from the "general ceremony" of librarianship. He stresses too much the organisation and methods of libraries; falls too often into his own traps of trivialities. He gives the reader facts and theories without emphasising the *use* to be made of them; he is obscure where he should be lucid. Some of his simplifications are misleading, "Many of the writers of standard fiction are not well known except to readers well up in the literary world" (p. 70); "the average Public Library, and also the large Reference Library, on the whole, have to build up their resources, and then hope that they will be used" (p. 26). At other times he is unintentionally humorous. "If the drawers contain three sequences of cards, then it is a Classified Catalogue" (p. 44) and "Borrowers are sometimes allowed to take out as many books as they wish, but most libraries limit the number that any person may have at one time. This is because they feel there would otherwise not be sufficient books to go round" (p. 83).

Such sentiments as these are not likely to guide the curious, or stimulate the initiated. "The library is what the librarian makes it," and Mr. Whittaker, though he believes that libraries are the only adequate answer

to a stimulated interest, has not been able to suggest this. His "Average Public library" does not exist, nor, I think, does the reader who will be helped by the first part of this book.

When, however, he begins writing on Seeking Information, and Beginning Research, we find a writer of a different calibre. Confident, explicit, illustrative, and helpful, he introduces the logical method of search, and a professional use of books which portrays his own competence and experience. His list of books for further study at the end of each chapter is adequate, but has surprising omissions. *Flexner, Making books work; Murison, The Public Library; Gardner, Letters to a Younger Librarian* are classics of our professional literature and very profitable reading.

I should have wished this book, which could have been very important, to have outlined something of our possible future. One of our greatest librarians to whom we owe so much, was writing about Using Libraries at the beginning of his consequential career: "What we have already accomplished is not the summit of our growth. Let us have your confidence and your support and you will reap the advantages of it." (L. R. McColvin, *L.A.R.*, May, 1921, p. 132). The average public library that Mr. Whittaker writes about is a frightening reality of yesterday, but I do not believe it is the picture for to-morrow. There is nothing we should avoid more than the assumption that the average is the thing to be most aimed at.

We need the interest and confidence of our readers, and they need our guidance and professional assistance in the use of books and libraries. I do not think our readers will use our libraries to more purpose through reading this book; I do not think it will inspire their confidence in us as book practitioners. It is not a fair introduction to using libraries.

MARION WILDEN-HART.

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